



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/804,496

03/13/2001

Kenneth P. Hinckley

03797.00035

1373

28319 7590 12/29/2005

BANNER & WITCOFF LTD.,
ATTORNEYS FOR MICROSOFT
1001 G STREET, N.W.
Suite 1100
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4597

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KEVIN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2674

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/804,496

Applicant(s)

HINCKLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin M. Nguyen

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5,7,8,10-15,18,19,21,26-30,33-36,48 and 49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-4,6,9,16,37,40-47 and 50 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5,7,8,10-15,18,19,21,26-30,33-36,48 and 49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/9/05, 10/4/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is made in response to applicant's RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND AMENDMENT, filed on 04/30/2004. Applicant's election without traverse of Group II, i.e., claims 5, 15, 18, 19, 48, 49, 7, 8, 10-14, 21, 26-30, and 33-36, drawn to graphical user interface, classified in class 715, subclass 700+ is acknowledged.

This application contains claims 1-4, 6, 9, 16, 16, 37, 50, and 40-47, drawn to an invention nonelected without traverse, filed on 04/30/2004. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Applicants are reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claims 1-4, 6, 9, 16, 16, 37, 50, and 40-47 are withdrawn/non-elected, claims 5, 15, 18, 19, 48, 49, 7, 8, 10-14, 21, 26-30, and 33-36 are elected, and claims 17, 20, 22-25, 31-32, and 38-39 are cancelled. Thus, claims 5, 15, 18, 19, 48, 49, 7, 8, 10-14, 21, 26-30, and 33-36 are currently pending in the application. An action follows below:

Terminal Disclaimer

2. The terminal disclaimer filed on 04/30/2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of

09/804496 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 5, 15, 18, 19, 48, 49, 10, 12-14, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogura et al (US 5,907,327) hereinafter Ogura.

5. As to claim 5, Ogura teaches, in the computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contact the auxiliary control [detecting tap/slid components whether the tap action or the slide action has been executed or not, see Fig. 5, col. 5, lines 7-11] for a first predefined period [determining whether a predetermined period of time set for auto-release of the drag lock state has elapsed or not for the detection of the drag clock action, see col. 8, lines 60-62] in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state [the drag state is kept continued in the coordinate outputting device PC, see col. 9, lines 18-25];

in the first a first context, displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting the first display widget providing status information

associated with the auxiliary control in the first context [An object to be dragged is a window 22 is displayed on the screen 20. The finger F is put on the operating surface SF again in the above condition and continually slid from there, the controller 15 moves the cursor 21 and the frame 23 in interlock relation on the screen 20 corresponding to the slide action of the finger F in accordance with the slide component sent from the data analyzer 12, see Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 26-36].

in the second context is different from the first context, displaying a second display widget on the display screen responsive to said detecting, the second display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control in the second context [in step S8, the controller 15 reads the type of the cursor retracted into the RAM 18 and takes in shape data corresponding to that type of the cursor from the ROM 17, thereby restoring the cursor indicated on the screen 20 of the display 16 from the form of a fist (see FIG. 3B) to the form of an arrow (see FIG. 3A), see col. 9, lines 50-58].

As to claim 15, Ogura teach further comprising the steps of detecting absence of the physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a second predefined period while displaying the display widget; and discontinuing display of the display widget, responsive to detecting the absence of the physical presence [Subsequently, when the user makes the tap action on the operating surface SF, the processing of step S2 determines that the drag lock condition is no longer detected. More specifically, if the measuring unit 13 detects the tap action again after the time at which the drag lock action has been detected, it delivers to the mode converter 14 a control signal indicating the above fact, thereby informing release of the drag lock mode.

In response to the control signal, the mode converter 14 informs it to the controller 15, see col. 9, lines 41-49].

As to claim 18, Ogura teaches wherein the auxiliary control is one of a button or a key [a left button LB and a right button RB, see Fig. 2, col. 1-4].

As to claim 19, Ogura teaches wherein the physical presence is a hand of a user [the distance of the finger F is slid on the operating surface SF exceeds a certain predetermined value, see col. 5, lines 48-50].

As to claim 48, Ogura teaches wherein the first display widget and the second display widget are different [the various cursor shapes include a typical shape of arrow are displayed on the screen 20, as shown in Fig. 3A other than the "locked" state "fist" as shown in Fig. 3B, "lock" and "key" are displayed on the screen 20, see col. 6, lines 59-67].

As to claim 49, Ogura teaches wherein the first display widget is associated with a first application and the second display widget is associated with a second application different from the first application [it is only required for a user to put a finger on a flat operating surface several centimeters square provided on the pad and then slide the finger while keeping contact with the operating surface, see col. 1, lines 22-25. On the other hand, the improvement of the coordinate input system and a method of controlling the coordinate input system, which can notify users of a state of having come into a drag lock mode in an easily recognizable way, and hence can keep the users from being embarrassed as far as possible, see col. 2, lines 45-49].

6. Claim 10 shares the same limitations as those of claim 5 and therefore the rationale for rejection will be the same.
7. Claim 12 shares the same limitations as those of claim 5 and therefore the rationale for rejection will be the same.
8. As to claim 13, Ogura teaches further comprising the step of placing an identified application in the foreground of the display screen, responsive to a user's selection of the application using the auxiliary control [the fact that the drag mode is instructed to be locked by such an action on the screen is notified to the user in a predetermined manner, see col. 10, lines 40-42]. The drag lock feedback is displayed as a foreground the screen 20.
9. As to claim 14, Ogura teaches, in the computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the method comprising the steps of:
 - detecting a physical presence proximate to or contact the auxiliary control [detecting tap/slid components whether the tap action or the slide action has been executed or not, see Fig. 5, col. 5, lines 7-11] for a first predefined period [determining whether a predetermined period of time set for auto-release of the drag lock state has elapsed or not for the detection of the drag clock action, see col. 8, lines 60-62] in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state [the drag state is kept continued in the coordinate outputting device PC, see col. 9, lines 18-25];
 - displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the first display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control in the first context [An object to be dragged is a window 22 is displayed

Art Unit: 2674

on the screen 20. The finger F is put on the operating surface SF again in the above condition and continually slid from there, the controller 15 moves the cursor 21 and the frame 23 in interlock relation on the screen 20 corresponding to the slide action of the finger F in accordance with the slide component sent from the data analyzer 12, see Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 26-36], the status information including a task bar [Supposing now that an object to be dragged is a window, for example, not only a cursor 21 in the form of a fist and a window 22 to be dragged, but also a frame 23 having the same size as the window 22 remain displayed on a screen 20 of the display 16 (see FIG. 1) as shown in FIG. 6, see col. 9, lines 26-30]. Thus, window 22 is directly displayed a task bar.

10. As to claim 26, Ogura teaches, in the computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contact the auxiliary control [detecting tap/slid components whether the tap action or the slide action has been executed or not, see Fig. 5, col. 5, lines 7-11] for a first predefined period [determining whether a predetermined period of time set for auto-release of the drag lock state has elapsed or not for the detection of the drag clock action, see col. 8, lines 60-62] in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state [the drag state is kept continued in the coordinate outputting device PC, see col. 9, lines 18-25];

displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting the first display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control [An object to be dragged is a window 22 is displayed on the screen 20. The finger F is put on the operating surface SF again in the above condition and

continually slid from there, the controller 15 moves the cursor 21 and the frame 23 in interlock relation on the screen 20 corresponding to the slide action of the finger F in accordance with the slide component sent from the data analyzer 12, see Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 26-36], the status information identified only applying to a single active application [the mode converter 14 stores therein a setting value indicating whether to permit or prohibit the drag lock feedback, and the types of the cursor to be indicated on the screen when the drag lock feedback is under execution, see col. 6, lines 38-41]. Thus, one drag lock feedback is a single active application.

11. Claim 27 shares the same limitations as those of claim 26 and therefore the rationale for rejection will be the same.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura in view of Proehl et al (US 6,118,450) hereinafter Proehl.

14. As to claim 7, Ogura teaches all of the claimed limitation except for displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to detect the input device, the display widget providing status information identifying at least one of track name, track time remaining, track length, album title and album length in multimedia application.

However, Proehl teaches a related A/V interface which includes displaying the graphic 170 (a display widget, fig. 4, col. 7, line 65) which is detecting by input device 180 (col. 7, line 61); the graphic 170 displays the status information (status bar 320, fig. 4) identifying at least one of track name 446, track time remaining 448, and album tile 447 (col. 8, lines 5-8).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the on-screen audio system interface as taught by Proehl in the graphical user interface as taught by Ogura in order to achieve the benefit of intend to control the display of Proehl, because this would provide a user to view and manipulate information in order to select a particular recording medium for playing, or to perform various other operations (see Proehl's abstract).

15. As to claim 8, Proehl teaches enhanced graphic display 170 (more details see fig. 3, col. 4, line 45-49) that includes a CD view 340, media collection 360, and system view 350 directly displaying in the display control panel.

16. Claims 11, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura in view of Yamaguchi et al (US 6,710,771) hereinafter Yamaguchi.

As to claim 11, Ogura teaches all of the claimed limitation of claim 10, except wherein the first auxiliary control is a headset or a microphone. However, Yamaguchi teaches a microphone 66 (see fig. 12). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the cooperation of the microphone as taught by Yamaguchi with the input device of Ogura in order to

achieve the benefit of provide extra input audio signals to the computer system for the user.

17. As to claim 28, Ogura teaches in the computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method associated with an apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contact the auxiliary control [detecting tap/slid components whether the tap action or the slide action has been executed or not, see Fig. 5, col. 5, lines 7-11] for a first predefined period [determining whether a predetermined period of time set for auto-release of the drag lock state has elapsed or not for the detection of the drag clock action, see col. 8, lines 60-62] in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state [the drag state is kept continued in the coordinate outputting device PC, see col. 9, lines 18-25];

displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the first display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control in the first context [An object to be dragged is a window 22 is displayed on the screen 20. The finger F is put on the operating surface SF again in the above condition and continually slid from there, the controller 15 moves the cursor 21 and the frame 23 in interlock relation on the screen 20 corresponding to the slide action of the finger F in accordance with the slide component sent from the data analyzer 12, see Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 26-36].

Accordingly, Ogura teaches all of the claimed limitation of claim 28, except wherein the status information is messaging related information.

However, Yamaguchi teaches this causes auxiliary control (the jog dial state) monitor program 54c to start the auto-pilot program 54B at step S26 to automatic retrieve an messaging related information (E-mail) by e.g., the E-mail program 54A, see Fig. 31, col. 18, lines 1-3.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the internet application, e.g., the email program display as taught by Yamaguchi in the graphical user interface as taught by Ogura in order to achieve the benefit of intend to control the display of Yamaguchi, because this would meet the demand of the user to see Email instantly in the computer system, and meet the demand of the user to start the desired application instantly (see Yamaguchi, col. 17, lines 35-42).

As to claim 29, Yamaguchi teaches wherein the status information includes one of the numbers of new or unread regular messages [if there is such oncoming mail, a flag indicating the presence of the oncoming mail, the program moves to step S96 to set a flag indicating the presence of the oncoming mail to terminate the E-mail program, see Fig. 32, col. 18, lines 10-20].

18. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura in view of Clark et al (previously cited, US 5,995,101) hereinafter Clark.

19. As to claim 21, Ogura teaches, in the computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contact the auxiliary control
[detecting tap/slid components whether the tap action or the slide action has been

Art Unit: 2674

executed or not, see Fig. 5, col. 5, lines 7-11] for a first predefined period [determining whether a predetermined period of time set for auto-release of the drag lock state has elapsed or not for the detection of the drag clock action, see col. 8, lines 60-62] in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state [the drag state is kept continued in the coordinate outputting device PC, see col. 9, lines 18-25];

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control [An object to be dragged is a window 22 is displayed on the screen 20. The finger F is put on the operating surface SF again in the above condition and continually slid from there, the controller 15 moves the cursor 21 and the frame 23 in interlock relation on the screen 20 corresponding to the slide action of the finger F in accordance with the slide component sent from the data analyzer 12, see Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 26-36];

detecting absence of the physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a second predefined period while displaying the display widget [when the use makes the tap action on the operating surface SF, the processing of step S2 determines that the drag lock condition is no longer detected, see col. 9, lines 42-43].

Accordingly, Ogura teaches all of the claimed limitation of claim 21, except for determining if a pointer is located within the display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting; and discontinuing display of the display widget when the pointer is not located within the display widget.

However, Clark teaches multi-level tool tip which includes the second-level tip 60 may replace the original tip if the user does not move the cursor 52 from over the icon 54 or take some other prescribed action within a predetermined amount of time, see figs. 1 and 2, col. 2, lines 34-38. A tool tip may terminate entirely when the user moves the cursor away from the icon or control area associated with the tool tip. In this situation, if the user moves the cursor to another icon or control area immediately, i. e., within a given time interval, see col. 3, lines 36-40.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the best guess before click as taught by Clark in the graphical user interface as taught by Ogura in order to achieve the benefit of intend to control the display of Clark, because this would provide the descriptions of many tool tips are too brief and too cryptic, and to provide much insight into the functions of the related icons (see Clark, col. 1, lines 38-40).

20. Claims 30 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura in view of Bukszar et al (US 6,133,916) hereinafter Bukszar.

21. As to claim 30, Ogura teaches, in the computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contact the auxiliary control [detecting tap/slid components whether the tap action or the slide action has been executed or not, see Fig. 5, col. 5, lines 7-11] for a first predefined period [determining whether a predetermined period of time set for auto-release of the drag lock state has elapsed or not for the detection of the drag clock action, see col. 8, lines 60-62] in which

the auxiliary control maintains a current state [the drag state is kept continued in the coordinate outputting device PC, see col. 9, lines 18-25];

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control [An object to be dragged is a window 22 is displayed on the screen 20. The finger F is put on the operating surface SF again in the above condition and continually slid from there, the controller 15 moves the cursor 21 and the frame 23 in interlock relation on the screen 20 corresponding to the slide action of the finger F in accordance with the slide component sent from the data analyzer 12, see Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 26-36];

Accordingly, Ogura teaches all of the claimed limitation of claim 30, except wherein when a web browser is an active application, the status information includes at least one of identification of previous and next web pages, and current page loading program.

However, Bukszar conventionally discloses a computer display screen 2, see Fig. 2, displaying a conventional web browser 4, see col. 1, lines 30-32, which includes the selectable item "Back" 14 and "Forward" 16 to scroll backwards or forwards through a limited number of the most recent accessed web pages, see Fig. 2, col. 1, lines 49-52.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the Internet application, e.g., the web browser includes "Back" and "Forward" buttons as disclosed by Bukszar in the graphical user interface as taught by Ogura in order to achieve the benefit of intend to control the display of Bukszar, because this would provide a graphical representation of files

downloaded over a network and, in particular, a system for accessing, viewing, and displaying data from the files by manipulating the graphical representation of the files (see Bukszar, col. 1, lines 8-11).

22. As to claim 35, Ogura teaches, in the computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contact the auxiliary control [detecting tap/slid components whether the tap action or the slide action has been executed or not, see Fig. 5, col. 5, lines 7-11] for a first predefined period [determining whether a predetermined period of time set for auto-release of the drag lock state has elapsed or not for the detection of the drag clock action, see col. 8, lines 60-62] in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state [the drag state is kept continued in the coordinate outputting device PC, see col. 9, lines 18-25];

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control [An object to be dragged is a window 22 is displayed on the screen 20. The finger F is put on the operating surface SF again in the above condition and continually slid from there, the controller 15 moves the cursor 21 and the frame 23 in interlock relation on the screen 20 corresponding to the slide action of the finger F in accordance with the slide component sent from the data analyzer 12, see Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 26-36];

Accordingly, Ogura teaches all of the claimed limitation of claim 30, except wherein the status information identifies at one of date.

However, Bukszar conventionally discloses a computer display screen 2 displaying the date "February 5, 1998" on the page, see Fig. 1.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the Internet application, e.g., the web browser includes the date as disclosed by Bukszar in the graphical user interface as taught by Ogura in order to achieve the benefit of intend to control the display of Bukszar, because this would provide a graphical representation the status of the pages, in particular, a system for accessing, viewing, and displaying pages by manipulating the graphical representation of the files (see Bukszar, col. 1, lines 8-11).

23. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura in view of Alimpich et al (US 6,232,968) hereinafter Alimpich.

24. As to claim 33, Ogura teaches, in the computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contact the auxiliary control [detecting tap/slid components whether the tap action or the slide action has been executed or not, see Fig. 5, col. 5, lines 7-11] for a first predefined period [determining whether a predetermined period of time set for auto-release of the drag lock state has elapsed or not for the detection of the drag clock action, see col. 8, lines 60-62] in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state [the drag state is kept continued in the coordinate outputting device PC, see col. 9, lines 18-25];

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary

control [An object to be dragged is a window 22 is displayed on the screen 20. The finger F is put on the operating surface SF again in the above condition and continually slid from there, the controller 15 moves the cursor 21 and the frame 23 in interlock relation on the screen 20 corresponding to the slide action of the finger F in accordance with the slide component sent from the data analyzer 12, see Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 26-36];

Accordingly, Ogura teaches all of the claimed limitation of claim 30, except wherein the status information provides printer status information.

However, Alimpich teaches a computer display screen which displays the status of the printers, window 51, the status of jobs, wherein 52, and the individual queues, window 53, see Figs. 3-5, col. 6, lines 11-13.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the printer status windows as taught by Alimpich in the graphical user interface as taught by Ogura in order to achieve the benefit of intend to control the display of Alimpich, because this would provide several sets of customized basic printer operation functions from which the user may select from and switch back and forth between (see Alimpich, col. 6, lines 54-56).

25. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura in view of Sakairi (US 5,752,254).

26. As to claim 34, Ogura teaches, in the computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contact the auxiliary control
[detecting tap/slid components whether the tap action or the slide action has been

Art Unit: 2674

executed or not, see Fig. 5, col. 5, lines 7-11] for a first predefined period [determining whether a predetermined period of time set for auto-release of the drag lock state has elapsed or not for the detection of the drag clock action, see col. 8, lines 60-62] in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state [the drag state is kept continued in the coordinate outputting device PC, see col. 9, lines 18-25];

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control [An object to be dragged is a window 22 is displayed on the screen 20. The finger F is put on the operating surface SF again in the above condition and continually slid from there, the controller 15 moves the cursor 21 and the frame 23 in interlock relation on the screen 20 corresponding to the slide action of the finger F in accordance with the slide component sent from the data analyzer 12, see Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 26-36];

Accordingly, Ogura teaches all of the claimed limitation of claim 30, except wherein the status information identifies contents of a clipboard.

However, Sakairi teaches a computer display screen which displays a clipboard regarding of copy and paste between different applications, see abstract.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the content of the clipboard as taught by Sakairi in the graphical user interface as taught by Ogura in order to the achieve the benefit of intend to control the display of Sakairi, because this would provide usability increase, and traffic of the network is decreased (see Sakairi's abstract).

27. Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogura in view of Sumikawa (US 6,040,817).

28. As to claim 36, Ogura teaches, in the computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contact the auxiliary control [detecting tap/slid components whether the tap action or the slide action has been executed or not, see Fig. 5, col. 5, lines 7-11] for a first predefined period [determining whether a predetermined period of time set for auto-release of the drag lock state has elapsed or not for the detection of the drag clock action, see col. 8, lines 60-62] in which the auxiliary control maintains a current state [the drag state is kept continued in the coordinate outputting device PC, see col. 9, lines 18-25];

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control [An object to be dragged is a window 22 is displayed on the screen 20. The finger F is put on the operating surface SF again in the above condition and continually slid from there, the controller 15 moves the cursor 21 and the frame 23 in interlock relation on the screen 20 corresponding to the slide action of the finger F in accordance with the slide component sent from the data analyzer 12, see Fig. 6, col. 9, lines 26-36];

Accordingly, Ogura teaches all of the claimed limitation of claim 30, except wherein the auxiliary control is a key representing a mathematical operator, and in a spreadsheet application, the status information identifies the result if the mathematical operator is applied to data in a spreadsheet.

However, Sumikawa teaches a computer display screen which displays contents of a window for spreadsheet, see Fig. 2, col. 16-19, in this state, an auxiliary input window 45 appears to the lower left of the cursor 13, which controls the display position of the auxiliary input window, see Fig. 4, col. 3, lines 48-51.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the spreadsheet application, e.g., the mathematical operator as taught by Sumikawa in the graphical user interface as taught by Ogura in order to achieve the benefit of intend to control the display of Sumikawa, because this would improve the operating efficiency of a cursor with respect to a window (see Sumikawa, col. 1, lines 15-17).

Conclusion

29. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin M. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-7697. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-THU from 8:00-6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick N. Edouard can be reached on 571-272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8000.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 2674

For more information about the Patent Application Information Retrieval system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin M. Nguyen
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2674

KMN
December 15, 2005



PATRICK N. EDOUARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER